

GERMANS CLAIM VERDUN ADVANCE; LOSE TO BRITISH

Berlin Reports Capture of French Positions Near Douaumont

ENGLISH SEIZE CRATER

Paris Declares Part of Vaux and Caillette Wood Retaken

There are discrepancies between the French and German reports on the Verdun fighting today.

According to Berlin, French attempts to recapture positions taken by the Germans south and southwest of Douaumont were repulsed. The report also states that in the Caillette wood, between Douaumont and Vaux, the French were thrown back in an unsuccessful attack, the Germans taking 764 prisoners and eight machine guns.

Berlin admits, however, the loss of a mine crater at St. Etloi to the English, following lively artillery fire.

Paris claims the recapture of part of the village of Vaux and the greater part of the Caillette wood. A fierce artillery fire is being directed by the French on the Vaux-Douaumont line, preparatory to a great assault.

The French have abandoned the village of Bethincourt, northwest of Verdun. The Germans now command the Malancourt-Bethincourt highway, which opens the way clear for an attack on Hill 304, 5 1/2 miles northwest of Verdun.

The Germans have brought Forts Marre, Bourrus and Chosel, northwest of Verdun, under the fire of their guns.

Berlin, April 4.—After a severe battle, the English have succeeded in capturing the crater south of St. Etloi, which the Germans had previously occupied. It was announced today by the War Office.

St. Etloi is southeast of Ypres in West Flanders.

Southwest and south of Fort Douaumont, on the Verdun front, the Germans captured strong French defensive works.

French counter-attacks in the region of Fort Douaumont were repulsed. Following is the text of the official report:

After lively artillery fire the English recaptured the mine crater south of St. Etloi.

In the region of Fort Douaumont, on April 3, we captured strong French defensive positions, which lie south and southwest of the fort and also in Caillette Wood.

French counter attacks were repulsed. The French repeatedly delivered storm attacks against the positions they had lost in Caillette forest, but all were fruitless. These attacks cost the French heavy sacrifices.

During the attacks on April 2 we captured 19 officers and 745 men as well as eight machine guns and other booty.

PARIS, April 4.—In preparation for further counter-attacks on the northeast front of Verdun, French artillery literally drenched the region of Douaumont and Vaux with shells throughout the night.

The official communique issued by the War Office today states that the German guns made only a feeble reply to the terrific fire. There was no infantry attack in this region.

On the west bank of the Meuse both the French and Germans engaged in a stiff artillery duel.

The text of the communique follows: In the Argonne we shelled German organizations, particularly in the region of Montfaucourt and Malancourt.

West of the Meuse there was a very violent artillery duel from Avocourt to Malancourt.

East of the Meuse the night was comparatively quiet. The Germans did not make a single attack on the Douaumont-Vaux front. Re-established by our counter-attacks of yesterday, our batteries displayed particular activity against the enemy's positions in that region. The enemy replied only feebly.

East of Le Pretre forest a strong reconnaissance force of the enemy was dispersed by our rifle fire.

In Alancour our batteries took under their fire supply convoys on the Thaan-Mulhausen road.

Although the French retired half a mile on the west bank of the Meuse, voluntarily giving the Germans a foothold in the shell-shattered village of Bethincourt, they have regained part of the ground lost to the Teutons east of the Meuse.

The German positions in Vaux and the Caillette wood, between four and five miles northeast of Verdun, are now seriously menaced. The French have recaptured the west part of the village of Vaux and have pushed the Germans out of the greater part of the Caillette forest.

Lively fighting from the front speak of heavy fighting both northeast and southwest of Verdun. On the left bank of the river, the Germans have established a line of machine gun positions, which opens the gate for an attack upon the strong French positions on Hill 304.

This hill lies southeast of Malancourt and southwest of Verdun. It is about 1 1/2 miles long and is about five and one-half miles northwest of Verdun. It is regarded as one of the key positions of the French.

The big guns of the Germans have now brought three of the forts northwest of Verdun under their fire. They are Fort Marre, Fort Bourrus and Fort Chosel.

However intense the Germans' bombardment comes they cannot launch infantry attacks against those works because of the French defenses lying in front of them.

The Germans are striving harder than at any previous time for a victory at Verdun.

There have been no lulls in the recent fighting, such as previously marked the combat. This "speeding up" of the German drive is said to be the result of

The War Today

French artillery is concentrating a heavy fire on the Vaux-Douaumont line of the Verdun front, in preparation for a great infantry attack.

The Germans have occupied the village of Bethincourt, abandoned by the French, northeast of Verdun. Fort de Marre, Fort Bourrus and Fort Chosel have been brought within the range of the German artillery. Infantry attacks on these forts, however, are impossible in view of the heavy defenses in front of them.

The French have recaptured the west part of Vaux village and have driven the Germans from the greater part of Caillette wood.

Petrograd reports repulse of German attacks on the Dvina front. These were prepared by a couple of hours' heavy bombardment of the Russian line.

Holland is said to be making military preparations in fear that the Allies will cross the Netherlands in a purposive drive upon Germany, thus violating Dutch neutrality.

orders that came direct from the Kaiser. In Paris the old-time optimism prevails. The French have plenty of reserve guns and men, but the chief source of satisfaction is the knowledge that General Joffre is at Verdun.

VIOLENT ARTILLERY ACTION ON HEIGHTS NEAR GORIZIA

Six Italian Aeroplanes Make Daring Raid on Adelsberg

ROME, April 4.—The following official communication from general headquarters was issued yesterday:

Along the whole front, from the Lagarina Valley to the Sugana Valley, artillery fire continued Saturday and Sunday with increasing intensity.

Our observers brought news of important troop movements, which our artillery broke up.

Enemy airmen attempting frequent reconnaissances of our lines were kept at a great height by our anti-aircraft artillery, and were finally put to flight by our aviators.

In the valley of the Cismon our advanced posts attacked and pushed back an Austrian detachment in the vicinity of Malga Sopra Lonz. At San Pellegrino Sunday night we repulsed an enemy attack.

In the Cristallo zone an enemy battery opened a violent fire on our new positions on Rauchkofel. We silenced it. Our infantry increased its recent conquests, occupying the summit of Hill 1375 dominating the valley of Cristallo.

During the whole day on the upper front and along the Isonzo front, there were intense artillery action on both sides, most violent on the heights northwest of Gorizia.

On Saturday night one of our dirigibles, despite the high winds, succeeded in reaching the railway junction at Opicella near Trieste, on which it dropped 300 kilograms of high explosives. Notwithstanding the fire of numerous enemy batteries, the dirigible returned safely.

This morning six Caproni aeroplanes made a daring raid on Adelsberg, an important railway centre and the headquarters of a high Austrian command, on which it dropped 40 bombs, starting large fires. Our airmen, attacked by enemy aviators, whom they repulsed, returned unharmed.

PHILADELPHIA MAIL TUBE SERVICE DELAY DENIED

Washington Officials Assail Trade Commission's Complaint

WASHINGTON, April 4.—Officials of the Postoffice Department today denied the truth of statements made by Meirs Busch, of Philadelphia, chairman of the Board of Trade Committee on Municipal Affairs, that the report of the special committee on pneumatic tube service, is being held up.

The letter was made public in Philadelphia last night, but it was said at Senator Bankhead's office today that the communication had not been received.

According to officials of the Postoffice Department, who are familiar with the work being done by the commission appointed to investigate the pneumatic tube service, the report will be presented as soon as it can be completed. The department officials asserted today that for many weeks they have been attempting to get data on pneumatic tube service, but so far have been unsuccessful. Until that information is obtained, they say, no report nor recommendations for continuation of the pneumatic tube service in Philadelphia can be recommended.

Long and Short Haul Rule Modified

WASHINGTON, April 4.—Because of keen water competition, the Interstate Commerce Commission today granted permission to railroads to maintain rates between points on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in contravention of the long and short haul clause. Stations in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois and Missouri are affected.

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4 AMERICANS ON TORPEDOED BRITISH SHIP

Consul at Cork Reports on Berwindvale—Others on Bark Bengairn

ALL U. S. CITIZENS SAFE

AMSTERDAM, April 4.—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg will make an important statement on the international situation at tomorrow's session of the Reichstag, the Berlin newspapers stated today.

LONDON, April 4.—There were four Americans on board the steamship Berwindvale, which was sunk by the Irish Coast on March 16, according to the United States consul at Cork.

The American consul reported that the Berwindvale had been torpedoed, but that all the Americans were saved.

There were also Americans on board the British bark Bengairn, which was sunk by a submarine while on her way from Seattle, Wash., to England, with a cargo of wheat.

The Bengairn was not armed, and, according to the dispatch to a maritime agent, she was sunk without warning.

The Americans on board joined the steamship's crew before she sailed from Seattle.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—The Cabinet took up the submarine question.

It was said that the decision previously reached in connection with the Sussex case by Secretary Lansing and President Wilson—that at present this Government does not possess enough evidence that the vessel was torpedoed to take any action—was upheld by the entire Cabinet.

It was indicated that no action will be taken until the affidavits from Sussex passengers, now en route here on the liner St. Paul, are received and digested.

U. S. WILL NOT ACCEPT ALLIES' MAIL SEIZURE ATTITUDE

Reply Does Not Meet Contentions, Lansing Studying Text

WASHINGTON, April 4.—The United States will not accept without further strong protest the claim of the Entente Allies that they have the right to continue mail seizures. The reply filed with the State Department, officials say, does not meet the contentions of the United States.

It ignores almost entirely the claim of the United States that mail on neutral ships has been taken off and detained without warrant, despite the provision of the international law that permits the free passage of all first class mails.

Secretary Lansing said today that he had not yet fully studied the Allied reply and that for the present he did not care to say what further steps will be taken to safeguard American rights. It is understood, however, that another protest draft disagreeing with the position of the Allies will be prepared shortly.

BRITAIN REFUSES TO RELEASE GERMANS SEIZED ON U. S. SHIP

Cabinet Takes Up First Rejection of Like Requests

WASHINGTON, April 4.—Great Britain in an official communication to Secretary Lansing received today, refuses to release the 38 Germans taken off the American steamship China, of the China Mail Steamship Company, by a British cruiser several weeks ago, near Shanghai.

This is the first time during the present war that such a request has not been granted by the Allied Powers.

France, in two similar instances, freed Germans taken off American vessels when requested to do so by this Government.

The China was en route to San Francisco, her home port, when a British warship stopped her and seized as prisoners of war 38 German civilians on board.

They were removed over the protests of the China's captain.

Great Britain's communication was received at the State Department shortly before the Cabinet meeting. Secretary Lansing carried the communication with him to the White House. It was the main subject discussed by the President and his advisers.

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Call for State Bank's Condition HARRISBURG, Pa., April 4.—The State Banking Commissioner has issued a call for statements as of March 30, from state banks, trust companies and saving institutions.



GEN. SIR SAM HUGHES Canadian Minister of Militia, who is in a precarious position as a result of military graft scandal. A coalition Government is a possibility.

BRITISH BUDGET HINTS AT FULL YEAR OF WAR

Chancellor Introduces Bill for \$7,795,000,000 to Last Till March 31, 1917

LONDON, April 4.—The British Government expects the war to last at least one more year, was shown today when Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced the budget.

The budget provides for war expenses to carry on hostilities throughout the whole fiscal year. This will end March 31, 1917.

The actual expenditures are set forth in the budget at \$7,795,000,000, which is \$155,000,000 less than estimated by Mr. McKenna in his budget speech in the House of Commons last September.

In September the Chancellor had estimated the expenditures at \$7,950,000,000. The estimated revenue for the year, based upon the policy outlined in the budget speech, is estimated at \$2,545,000,000.

The actual revenue for the year, based upon the old system of taxation, is \$1,685,000,000, which exceeds by \$100,000,000 the estimate made by Mr. McKenna in September.

The total indebtedness of the Government on March 31 was \$10,700,000,000, of which sum \$1,841,000,000 had been advanced to the Allies.

The deficit was placed at \$6,110,000,000. The total financial assistance to the Allies is \$1,565,000,000, against an estimate of \$1,772,500,000.

The daily expenditure of the Government is \$25,000,000.

The expenditure for the artillery and navy and the ministry of munitions, as well as for miscellaneous war supplies, totals \$5,750,000,000, or \$15,000,000 daily. Deduct the advances made the Allied governments and the war expenditures are then \$17,500,000 for England alone.

The maximum income tax is placed at five shillings. The tax on earned incomes up to \$2500 will be increased to two shillings three pence; incomes of from \$2500 to \$5000, a tax of two shillings six pence per pound.

Common-law "Widow" Loses Suit

The claim of Louisa Monaghan Zoll, 26 years old, to the \$100,000 estate left by her alleged common-law husband, Edward Zoll, a wealthy 76-year-old butcher, was refused today by Judge Gumme in the Orphans' Court.

He ordered the estate distributed among the deceased's relatives and heirs, deciding that the placing of a ring on the woman's finger by Zoll did not constitute a marriage, inasmuch as he had never introduced her to his relatives as his wife.

QUATTRO VELIVOLI NEMICI ABBATTUTI DA TRENI BLINDATI

Sette Aeroplani Austriaci Attaccano Ancona, Ma Solo Tre Riescono a Ritornare alla Loro Base

OPICINA E' BOMBARDATA

ROMA, 4 Aprile. La difesa delle coste dell'Adriatico contro aeroplani nemici che facevano attacco fu tentata ieri con artiglierie speciali montate su treni blindati e riuosi' pienamente. Il Ministero della Guerra annuncia questa mattina che i cannoni speciali montati su di un treno blindato riuscirono ad abbattere quattro di sette aeroplani austriaci che avevano attaccato la citta' di Ancona ed avevano cominciato a farvi cadere bombe che uccisero tre persone. Gli altri tre aeroplani dovettero darsi alla fuga, inseguiti dal fuoco dei cannoni speciali.

Questi treni blindati furono messi in servizio lungo la ferrovia che costeggia l'Adriatico appena in questi giorni. Il Ministero della Guerra ha pubblicato il seguente rapporto del generale d'Avoria circa la situazione alla frontiera italo-austriaca.

"Lungo tutta la fronte dalla Val Lagarina (Valle dell'Adige) alla Val Sugana (Valle del Brenta) l'azione delle artiglierie continue' nelle giornate di sabato e domenica con crescente intensita'. I nostri osservatori portarono informazioni di importanti movimenti di truppe nemiche movimenti che la nostra artiglieria fece cessare.

"Aviatori nemici che tentarono frequenti ricognizioni sulle nostre linee furono costretti dalle nostre batterie a ritornare a grandi altezze e finalmente furono costretti dai nostri aviatori a darsi alla fuga.

"Nella valle del Cismon i nostri reparti avanzati attaccarono e riacciarono indietro un reparto austriaco nelle vicinanze di Malga Sopra Ronz. A San Pellegrino, nella valle di San Pellegrino, domenica sera noi respingemmo un attacco del nemico.

"Nella valle del Monte Cristallo una batteria nemica aprì un violento fuoco contro le nostre nuove posizioni sul Rauchkofel, ma la nostra artiglieria riuscì al silenzio. Ivi la nostra fanteria allargò la zona di occupazione prendendo possesso della Quota 1375, che domina la valle del Cristallo. Eccellentemente il rapporto del generale Cadorna, parlando di Valle del Cristallo, si riferisce alla Val Fonda che divide appunto il Rauchkofel dal Cristallo propriamente detto. N. d. D.

"Durante tutta la giornata nell'alta valle del But, nel Cadore, e lungo la fronte dell'Isonzo si ebbero intense azioni di artiglieria da ambe le parti, azioni che furono più violente nella zona di Gorizia.

"Sabato sera uno dei nostri dirigibili, nonostante il forte vento, riusciva a raggiungere l'imponente centro ferroviario di Opicina, a nord di Trieste, e lasciava cadere sulla stazione 200 chilogrammi di potente esplosivo. Nonostante il violento fuoco di numerose batterie concentrate sul nostro dirigibile, questo ritornò alla sua base senza danni.

"Questa mattina (finedi) nei nostri aeroplani tipo Caproni eseguirono un'audace incursione su Adelsberg, importante centro ferroviario e quartiere generale dell'alto comando austriaco, su cui lasciarono cadere 40 bombe che provocarono parecchi incendi. I nostri aeroplani furono attaccati da velivoli nemici, ma essi respinsero gli attacchi e tornarono senza danni alla loro base.

LA BATTAGLIA DI VERDUN. I tedeschi, che avevano conquistato il villaggio di Vaux, ad est di Verdun, ne sono stati ricacciati da violenti contrattacchi delle forze francesi. Essi però mantengono delle posizioni conquistate domenica a nord-ovest della fortezza, nella zona del villaggio di Bethincourt che e' stato completamente distrutto dalle ar-

tillerie. Si dice che la posizione tedesca tra Douaumont ed il bosco di Caillette sono ora seriamente minacciate. Ad ogni modo i dispaesi recentissimi da Parigi dicono che la battaglia continua violenta tanto a nord-ovest come a nord-est di Verdun e che i contrattacchi francesi aumentano di intensita'. Si crede che i tedeschi si preparano ad attaccare la fortissima posizione francese della Quota 304, a nord-ovest della fortezza, che e' stata bombardata per quasi una settimana.

I telegrammi da Parigi dicono che le autorità militari francesi sono pienamente fiduciose nel risultato della battaglia sia perche' esse hanno a loro disposizione una quantita' enorme di artiglieria e di truppe e sia perche' il generale Joffre e' a Verdun.

ESSEN BOMBARDATA DA VELIVOLI ALLEATI

Quattro Aeroplani Austriaci Abbattuti Ieri da Artiglierie Italiane ad Ancona

Trentino aeroplani degli alleati hanno fatto una incursione su parecchia citta' tedesche in risposta al bombardamento di Dunquerque operato da un Zeppelin. Tra le citta' tedesche bombardate dagli aeroplani alleati e' Essen, dove sono i grandi stabilimenti Krupp. Gli aeroplani lasciarono cadere 45 bombe di grosso calibro su quattro citta' mentre una squadriglia francese bombardava la stazione di Confians.

Sette aeroplani austriaci avevano attaccato la citta' di Ancona lasciandone cadere bombe che uccisero della persone. Gli aeroplani furono però attaccati dalle artiglierie speciali montate su di un treno blindato e riuosi' pienamente. I quattro aeroplani austriaci furono abbattuti. Soltanto tre velivoli della squadriglia nemica poterono darsi alla fuga.

Il Ministero della Guerra italiano, oltre che a confermare la notizia austriaca del bombardamento di Adelsberg da parte di una squadriglia di Caproni, annuncia pure che un dirigibile italiano bombardò la stazione di Opicina, che e' a nord di Trieste.

PLANO TO FEDERALIZE STATE TROOPS ASSAILED BY BORAH

Idaho Senator Vigorously Opposes Preparedness Expenditure

WASHINGTON, April 4.—Senator Borah, of Idaho, took up the budget today

Sax Rohmer, whose Fu-Man-chu stories thrilled you, starts a new series—"The Si-Fan Mysteries"—describing the battle of wits between a diabolically clever Oriental organization and a famous English detective. The first, a tale complete in itself, appears in this week's issue of

Collier's THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

In the Senate against federalizing the national guard and attacked the proposed expenditure annually for State troops.

"The history of the militia from the Revolutionary war down to the present time is an unbroken story of disaster, defeat and humiliation," he declared. "The expense of the preparedness program, no matter how economical we may be, is going to be startlingly great. We must make every dollar count and justify the expenditure. You can't do that by putting 300,000 civilians on the Federal payroll."

Republicans led by Borah allied themselves with a faction of the Democratic side in a desperate effort to save the Federal volunteer army and break down the movement for State troops.

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